

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, CG, RW, BY

SUBJECT: RWANDAN AND BURUNDI REFUGEES IN KIVU REGION

1. DURING RECENT VISIT TO BUKAVU, POLCOUNS HAD OCCASION TO DISCUSS BRIEFLY WITH UNHCR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE DIANA WILLDAY (BRITISH NATIONAL), QUESTION OF RWANDAN AND BURUNDI REFUGEES IN KIVU REGION. FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED FROM CONVERSATION:

2. RWANDAN REFUGEES: THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 21,000 RWANDANS CURRENTLY LIVING IN THE KIVU REGION. THEY HAVE BECOME FAIRLY INTEGRATED INTO THE ZAIRIAN SOCIETY AND ECONOMY. AS A RESULT, THE UNHCR IS NOT PROVIDING THEM WITH ANY RELIEF ASSISTANCE. MS WILLDAY DID NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT UNHCR WAS ASSISTING IN THE BUILDING OF A SCHOOL. IN GENERAL, THE RWANDANS WERE SELF SUFFICIENT, AND IN SOME INSTANCES WERE RETURNING HOME.

3. BURUNDI REFUGEES: THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 18,000 BURUNDI MOST (APPROXIMATELY 14,000) OF WHOM LIVE IN THE RUZIZI PLAINS AREA.

4. THE REFUGEES CAN BE CLASSIFIED INTO THREE CATEGORIES: 1) FARMERS 2) FISHERMEN AND, 3) CRAFTSMEN. THE FARMERS ARE SUBDIVIDED
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INTO TWO GROUPS: A) LANDED (E.E., THEY OWN OR RENT LAND) AND B) NOT LANDED (I.E., THEY HIRE THEMSELVES OUT TO WORK ON FARMS.) IN EACH UNHCR PROVIDES TOOLS TO TILL THE LAND. FOR THE FISHERMEN, UNHCR PROVIDES FISHING TEAMS AND SOME EQUIPMENT. THE CRAFTSMEN, PRIMARILY TAILORS, CARPENTERS AND TEACHERS, ARE ALSO PROVIDED WITH TH
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TOOLS AND MACHINES OF THEIR TRADE.

5. UNHCR EFFORTS IN THE REZIZI PLAIN AREA HAVE CONCENTRATED ON THE BUILDING OF ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS FOR EXISTING PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS. UNHCR ALSO CONSTRUCTED A DISPENSARY AT LUSIRANDAKA. MARGINAL ASSISTANCE IS BEING PROVIDED TO REFUGEES LIVING CLOSE TO THE BORDER. TOTAL FUNDS BUDGETED FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1975-77 HAS BEEN \$350,000.

6. TWO THOUSAND REFUGEES HAVE BEEN RELOCATED TO MUTAMBALA, NEAR BARAKA SOUTH OF UVIRA. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT BY JUNE 1977 SOME 2000 MORE WILL BE MOVED TO THE AREA. THE RELOCATION IS BEING CARRIED OUT AT THE REQUEST OF THE REFUGEES AND HAS THE BLESSING OF THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT. IN FACT, ACCORDING TO MS. WILLDAY, THE AUTHORITIES ARE WELCOMING THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE PEOPLE WHO CAN TILL THE LANDS WHICH ARE NOT CURRENTLY POPULATED. IN ADDITIONAL THE GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING EACH REFUGEE FAMILY WITH A HECTARE OF LAND AND HAS INDICATED THAT THE REFUGEES COULD STAY AS LONG AS THEY WANTED. THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, IS NOT PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. UNHCR HAS BUILT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR THE NEW SETTLEMENT AS WELL AS A NEW DISPENSARY. IT IS ALSO PROVIDING A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF FOOD TO THE NEWLY RELOCATED FAMILIES UNTIL THE FIRST CROPS ARE HARVESTED. TOTAL COST OF THE RELOCATION IS \$600,000 FOR 1977.

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